

## **Conference Call: Arkansas Environmental Justice (EJ) Update**

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. (Central Standard Time)

Call-In Number: 1-866-299-3188

Conference Code: 214-665-2261

PIN: 7242. \* 6 – Mute. # 6 – Unmute. \* 5 Mute All (Except Leader). # 5 Unmute All.

Remember to:

1. Place phones on mute to reduce background noise (\*6 and #6)
2. Identify self before speaking

### **Agenda**

1. NEJAC Recap – Ms. Gloria Vaughn, OEJTIA, will give a brief review of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) meeting held April 25-27, 2017, in Minneapolis, MN. More on the NEJAC:  
<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council>.
2. Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Act – Ms. Scharmél Roussel, Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light, will provide information on this bill and potential benefits for Arkansas schools, churches, and nonprofit organizations. More on H. R. 2197:  
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2197/text/ih?overview=closed&format=xml>
3. FY2017 EJ Small Grants – EPA is wrapping up competitive review activities for the FY2017 Environmental Justice Small Grants program. More information on next steps will be provided soon.
4. Arkansas Environmental Justice Collaborative Action Plan – We are now in the second year of the plan's two-year cycle and will be identifying any key activities that can be removed due to relevancy or external factors.
5. Additional Items of Interest – Current and upcoming information and activities:
  - a. EJ Listserv – Get notices about activities at EPA in the field of environmental justice: [https://lists.epa.gov/read/all\\_forums/subscribe?name=epa-ej](https://lists.epa.gov/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=epa-ej). To request an item be posted, send your request to [environmental-justice@epa.gov](mailto:environmental-justice@epa.gov) and indicate in the subject "Post to EPA-EJ ListServ."
  - b. EPA Newsroom – Get alerts about news releases, blogs, and more:  
<https://www.epa.gov/newsroom/news-releases>.
6. Next and Future Calls Schedule
  - a. August 15, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
  - b. November 14, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

## Talking Points

Welcome everyone to the quarterly Environmental Justice Update call for Arkansas. I'm Tressa Tillman, the EJ Community Liaison for Arkansas. Roll Call.

1. NEJAC Recap – First on today's agenda, we will have Gloria Vaughn, OEJTIA, give a brief review of the NEJAC meeting held April 25-27, 2017, in Minneapolis, MN. Does anyone have any questions for Gloria? Thanks, Gloria.
2. Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Act – Next we will go to Scharmél Roussel, Arkansas Interfaith Power and Light, to give us information on the Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Act (H. R. 2197). Any questions? Thanks.
3. FY2017 EJ Small Grants – I want to recognize AIPL for submitting their FY2017 EJSG application. I did a check in the EPA Grants database, and the last shown EJ award to an Arkansas non-profit was in 2005. So, I want to thank Scharmél and her organization for taking the time and effort to submit their proposal. I also want to encourage anyone who may be interested to apply for future programs.
  - a. EPA received a total of 161 eligible applications for the FY2017 EJSG program nationwide. In an effort to increase outreach to affected communities, this year's program placed special emphasis on high ranking proposals in Underrepresented States and projects from eligible organizations that had not received an EJ award since FY2012.
  - b. Of the 161 Eligible Applications received nationwide:
    - a. 55% were from Underrepresented States
    - b. 86% were New Grantees and
    - c. 51% were both Underrepresented and New Grantees (if selected)
  - c. Region 6 received 17 eligible applications
    - a. 10 were from Underrepresented States (AR, OK, TX)
    - b. 13 were New Grantees and
    - c. 9 were both Underrepresented and New Grantees (if selected)
  - d. Region 6 has completed the final rankings for the proposals we received and submitted the selection recommendations to the Office of Environmental Justice at EPA HQ. The Director of OEJ will make the final selections for award. We expect all applicants to be notified of the selection results by mail or email no later than the end of May 2017.
  - e. More information on the anticipated announcements and award dates is provided on Pages 26-27 in the request for proposal. Are there any questions?
4. Arkansas Environmental Justice Collaborative Action Plan and EJ 2020 – Next on the agenda is the Arkansas EJ Collaborative Action Plan and EJ 2020. We requested updates from our Region 6 programs and Arkansas state agencies by today. We will send out the quarterly update once all inputs have been reviewed and added. Are there any questions?
5. Additional Items of Interest – EJ List Serv and EJ Newsroom
6. Next and Future Calls Schedule. Our next call is scheduled for August 15, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. Please feel free to send me any discussion items for the agenda.

Thanks to everyone for joining us for today's call. Happy Memorial Day. Bye-bye!